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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

## UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

### PELLAGRA.

#### JACKSON, LA.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Lavinder reports, October 26:

In accordance with bureau orders of October 9, directing me to proceed to Jackson, La., for the purpose of investigating certain cases of pellagra in the state insane asylum at that place, I arrived at Jackson on the 16th.

I immediately communicated with Dr. Clarence Pierson, the superintendent, and remained until I had completed my investigation. I also had a conference with the superintendent and a representative of the state board of health.

This institution is the larger of two state institutions of its kind. It is located in a very small town in a salubrious section of the State. It cares for about 1,500 insane. The institution is an old one. The place is apparently well managed and the patients are well cared for.

Ten positive cases of pellagra and 5 cases suspicious, but requiring further observation, were found. The general type of the disease was rather mild in many of its manifestations, but the diagnosis, in my opinion, was quite clear.

Nothing of a local nature to account for the appearance of the disease in the institution could be found nor could any suggestion be advanced in the way of prophylaxis other than a careful inspection of all corn products or the discontinuance of the use of this cereal as a foodstuff.

At the Charity Hospital in New Orleans I saw 2 well-marked cases of pellagra and 1 suspect.

*Reports of plague-prevention work at San Francisco, Oakland, and Point Richmond, and in Alameda, Contra Costa, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Solano counties, Cal.*

Surgeon Blue reports:

#### SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Last case of human plague: Sickened, January 30, 1908.

Last case of rodent plague: Trapped, October 23, 1908.

#### *Week ended October 23.*

Dead inspected.....	104
Plague.....	0
Premises inspected.....	1,604
Houses disinfected.....	38
Nuisances abated.....	188

Rats found dead.....	28
Rats trapped.....	1,920
Total rats taken.....	1,948
Rats identified:	
Mus norvegicus.....	1,489
Mus rattus.....	53
Mus musculus.....	358
Mus alexandrinus.....	20
Total.....	1,920
Rats identified as to sex:	
Male.....	621
Female.....	874
Total.....	1,49
Rats examined bacteriologically.....	1,245
Plague rats.....	0
Poisons placed.....	14,645
Total number of rats found infected to date.....	398

## OAKLAND, CAL.

Last case of human plague: Sickened, July 17, 1908.

Last case of rodent plague: Trapped, December 1, 1908.

*Week ended October 23.*

Dead inspected.....	31
Plague.....	0
Rats found dead.....	17
Rats trapped.....	570
Rats identified:	
Mus norvegicus.....	552
Mus rattus.....	6
Mus musculus.....	28
Mus alexandrinus.....	1
Total.....	587
Rats examined bacteriologically.....	542
Plague rats.....	0

*Special telegraphic report dated November 5.*

Frank Belfils, aged 22 years, sickened at Oakland, Cal., October 26. Clinically plague. Probably infected by ground squirrels at Devlin Ranch, Contra Costa County. He is isolated in Alameda County Infirmary. All precautionary measures have been taken. (Diagnosis was confirmed bacteriologically November 9.)

## POINT RICHMOND, CAL.

*Week ended October 23.*

Dead inspected.....	2
Plague.....	0

## ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL. (EXCLUSIVE OF OAKLAND).

Last case of human plague: Sickened 2 miles southwest of Sunol, September 24, 1909.

Last case of rodent plague: Found October 8, 1909.

*Week ended October 9.*

Dead inspected.....	67
Plague.....	0
Necropsies held.....	2
Ranches inspected.....	80
Ground squirrels shot.....	696
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	675
Ground squirrels found infected with <i>B. pestis</i> .....	5
Total number of ground squirrels found infected to date.....	45

Plague-infected ground squirrels obtained from the following places:

<i>October 2, 1909.</i>	
Curdy's ranch, Sunol.....	1
<i>October 4, 1909.</i>	
Sherman's ranch, Altamont.....	1
<i>October 5, 1909.</i>	
F. P. Mendoza ranch, Sunol.....	1
<i>October 6, 1909.</i>	
Overacher ranch, Sunol.....	1
<i>October 8, 1909.</i>	
View ranch, Sunol.....	1

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CAL. (EXCLUSIVE OF POINT RICHMOND).

Last case of human plague: Sickened, July 21, 1908.

Last case of rodent plague: Found, September 27, 1909.

<i>Week ended October 9.</i>	
Dead inspected.....	2
Plague.....	0
Ranches inspected.....	27
Ground squirrels shot.....	324
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	305
Ground squirrels found infected with <i>B. pestis</i> .....	2
Total number of ground squirrels found infected to date.....	240

Plague-infected ground squirrels obtained from the following places:

<i>September 21, 1909.</i>	
Sullivan ranch.....	1
<i>September 27, 1909.</i>	
Cope ranch.....	1

MERCED COUNTY, CAL.

No record of human or rodent plague in Merced County.

<i>Week ended October 16.</i>	
Ranches inspected.....	71
Ground squirrels shot.....	462
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	460
Plague squirrels.....	0

SAN BENITO COUNTY, CAL.

Last case of rodent plague: Found October 15, 1909.

<i>Week ended October 16.</i>	
Ranches inspected.....	9
Ground squirrels shot.....	140
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	136
Ground squirrels found infected with <i>B. pestis</i> .....	1

Plague-infected ground squirrel obtained from the following place:

<i>October 15, 1909.</i>	
Best ranch (Hollister).....	1

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CAL.

No record of human or rodent plague in Santa Clara County.

*Week ended October 16.*

Ranches inspected.....	38
Ground squirrels shot.....	361
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	358
Plague squirrels.....	0

## SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CAL.

No record of human or rodent plague in San Joaquin County.

*Week ended October 9.*

Ranches inspected.....	28
Ground squirrels shot.....	177
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	175
Plague squirrels.....	0

*Week ended October 16.*

Ranches inspected.....	25
Ground squirrels shot.....	250
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	238
Plague squirrels.....	0

## SOLANO COUNTY, CAL.

No record of human or rodent plague in Solano County.

*Week ended October 16.*

Ranches inspected.....	8
Ground squirrels shot.....	79
Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically.....	71
Plague squirrels.....	0

STATISTICAL REPORTS OF MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY, STATES AND CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES—UNTABULATED.

COLORADO—*Colorado Springs*.—Month of September, 1909. Estimated population, 32,000. Total number of deaths, 34, corresponding to an annual death rate of 12.75 per 1,000 of population, including tuberculosis 10. Cases: Scarlet fever 3, enteric fever 23.

*Denver*.—Month of September, 1909. Total number of deaths, 269, including enteric fever 12, scarlet fever 2, diphtheria 5, tuberculosis 57.

MICHIGAN.—Month of September, 1909. Population, 2,530,016. Total number of deaths, 3,095, corresponding to an annual death rate of 14.2 per 1,000 of population, including tuberculosis 171, enteric fever 87, diphtheria 28, scarlet fever 19, measles 5, whooping cough 23.

MISSOURI—*St. Louis*.—Month of August, 1909. Total number of deaths, 932, including measles 2, scarlet fever 8, diphtheria 5, whooping cough 3, enteric fever 10.

NEW JERSEY.—Month of October, 1909. Total number of deaths, 2,894, including enteric fever 37, measles 10, scarlet fever 11, whooping cough 20, diphtheria 47, tuberculosis 325.